

103<sup>D</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION

# S. 1149

To establish in the Department of the Interior the Office of Indian Women and Families, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 23 (legislative day, JUNE 22), 1993

Mr. DOMENICI (for himself and Mr. INOUE) introduced the following bill;  
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs

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## A BILL

To establish in the Department of the Interior the Office of Indian Women and Families, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

### 3   **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Office of Indian  
5   Women and Families Act of 1993”.

### 6   **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       Congress finds that:

8           (1) The primary responsibilities of the Bureau  
9       of Indian Affairs are to encourage and assist Indian  
10      people to manage their own affairs under the trust

1 relationship between Indians and the Federal Gov-  
2 ernment, and to facilitate, with maximum involve-  
3 ment of Indian people, full development of their  
4 human and natural resource potential.

5 (2) The Bureau of Indian Affairs coordinates  
6 its activities with Indian tribal governments, Federal  
7 agencies and departments, and other organizations  
8 and groups who share similar interests and pro-  
9 grams related to Indians.

10 (3) Bureau of Indian Affairs policies, programs  
11 and projects impact directly and significantly on the  
12 lives of America's Indian people.

13 (4) The unique roles and responsibilities of In-  
14 dian women contribute culturally, socially, and eco-  
15 nomically to the well-being of Indian people, but  
16 these contributions are often not fully realized and  
17 are undervalued and overlooked within the policies,  
18 program, and projects of the Bureau of Indian  
19 Affairs.

20 (5) Indian children have special educational and  
21 social service needs to prepare them for traditional  
22 tribal responsibilities and nontribal social and em-  
23 ployment opportunities.

24 (6) The particular responsibilities, contribu-  
25 tions, and needs of Indian women and families can

1 and should be taken into account to improve Bureau  
2 of Indian Affairs policy formulation and program op-  
3 erations for the direct benefit of Indian women and  
4 families and Indian people as a whole.

5 (7) Bureau of Indian Affairs policies, programs  
6 and projects, including its coordination and liaison  
7 with other Federal, State, and local entities, can be  
8 more responsive and enhanced when Indian women  
9 and families are considered an integral element of  
10 the process as well as contributors to the success of  
11 these policies, programs, and projects.

12 (8) There is a need for an Office of Indian  
13 Women and Families in the Bureau of Indian Af-  
14 fairs for the purpose of encouraging and promoting  
15 the participation and integration of Indian women  
16 and families into Bureau of Indian Affairs policies,  
17 programs, projects, and activities, thereby improving  
18 the effectiveness of its mandate and the status and  
19 lives of Indian women and families.

20 **SEC. 3. PURPOSES.**

21 The purposes of this Act are:

22 (1) To identify and integrate the issues related  
23 to Indian women and families into all Bureau of  
24 Indian Affairs policies, programs, projects, and  
25 activities.

1           (2) To establish an office to serve as a focal  
2 point for all Federal Government policy issues af-  
3 fecting Indian women and families for purposes of  
4 both economic and social development.

5           (3) To collect data related to the specific roles,  
6 concerns, and needs of Indian women, and Indian  
7 families, and use such data to support policy, pro-  
8 gram, and project implementation throughout all of-  
9 fices of the Bureau of Indian Affairs and other Fed-  
10 eral agencies, and to monitor the impacts of these  
11 policies, programs and projects.

12           (4) To enhance the economic and social partici-  
13 pation of Indian women and families in all levels of  
14 planning, decisionmaking, and policy development  
15 within the Bureau of Indian Affairs, its area offices,  
16 and tribal governments and reservations.

17           (5) To conduct research and collect relevant  
18 studies relating to special needs of Indian women  
19 and families.

20           (6) To develop pilot programs and projects to  
21 strengthen activities of the Bureau of Indian Affairs  
22 involving Indian women and families, and serve as  
23 models for future endeavors and planning.

24           (7) To ensure a liaison with other Federal de-  
25 partments and agencies, State and local govern-

1       ments, tribally controlled community colleges, other  
2       academic institutions, any public or private organi-  
3       zations, and tribal governments that serve Indian  
4       peoples.

5           (8) To ensure training endeavors for Bureau of  
6       Indian Affairs offices and agencies at the national,  
7       area, and local levels to ensure Bureau personnel  
8       and any other beneficiaries of Bureau and other gov-  
9       ernmental programs understand the purposes and  
10      policies of the office established by this Act.

11          (9) To develop policy-level programs, with the  
12      assistance of the Assistant Secretary and other  
13      senior-level personnel of the Bureau of Indian Af-  
14      fairs, to ensure that systems, directives, manage-  
15      ment strategies and other related methodologies are  
16      implemented to meet the purposes of this Act.

17          (10) To strengthen the role of Indian women  
18      and families by developing and ensuring culturally  
19      appropriate policies and programs.

20          (11) To encourage other actions that serve to  
21      more fully integrate Indian women and families as  
22      participants in and agents for change in the Federal  
23      policy and program activities of the Bureau of In-  
24      dian Affairs.

1 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

2 As used in this Act:

3 (1) The term “Indian woman” means a woman  
4 who is a member of an Indian tribe.

5 (2) The term “Indian tribe” means any Indian  
6 tribe, band, nation, or other organized group or com-  
7 munity, any Alaska Native village or regional or vil-  
8 lage corporation as defined in or established pursu-  
9 ant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (85  
10 Stat. 688), which is recognized as eligible for special  
11 programs and services provided by the United States  
12 to Indians because of their status as Indians.

13 **SEC. 5. ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICE OF INDIAN WOMEN**  
14 **AND INDIAN FAMILIES.**

15 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the  
16 Department of the Interior the “Office of Indian Women  
17 and Families” (hereinafter referred to as the “Office”).

18 (b) DIRECTOR.—The Office shall be under the man-  
19 agement of a director (hereinafter referred to as the “Di-  
20 rector”), who shall be appointed by the Assistant Sec-  
21 retary of Indian Affairs. The Director shall report directly  
22 to the Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs.

23 (c) COMPENSATION.—The Director shall be com-  
24 pensated at the rate prescribed for level IV of the Execu-  
25 tive Schedule under section 5313 of title 5, United States  
26 Code.

1 (d) TENURE.—The Director shall serve at the discre-  
2 tion of the Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs.

3 (e) VACANCY.—A vacancy in the position of Director  
4 shall be filled in the same manner as the original appoint-  
5 ment was made.

6 (f) DUTIES.—The Director shall administer the Of-  
7 fice and carry out the purposes and functions of this Act.  
8 The Director shall take such action as may be necessary  
9 in order to integrate Indian women and family issues into  
10 the Bureau of Indian Affairs policies, programs, projects  
11 and activities.

12 **SEC. 6. FUNCTIONS OF OFFICE.**

13 It shall be the function of the Office to develop a Pol-  
14 icy Paper for Indian women and families to articulate the  
15 objectives of the Office, to serve as a guideline for system-  
16 atically integrating Indian women and families issues into  
17 the Bureau of Indian Affairs policies, programs, projects,  
18 and activities, and to establish and detail indicators and  
19 benchmarks for measuring the success of the Office.

20 **SEC. 7. POLICY TASK FORCE.**

21 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF A POLICY TASK FORCE.—  
22 The Director, in consultation with the Assistant Secretary  
23 of Indian Affairs, shall establish a temporary policy task  
24 force on Indian women and families.

1 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—Members of the task force shall  
2 be appointed by the Director. The task force shall include  
3 representatives from Federal agencies and departments,  
4 relevant Indian organizations, State agencies and organi-  
5 zations, Indian tribal governments, institutions of higher  
6 education, and nongovernmental and private sector orga-  
7 nizations and institutions.

8 (c) FUNCTIONS.—The policy task force shall:

9 (1) Ensure that the Policy Paper for Indian  
10 women and families prepared by the Bureau of In-  
11 dian Affairs articulates a set of goals, objectives,  
12 management strategies, and monitoring systems for  
13 the improvement of all Federal programs, including  
14 programs of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, designed  
15 to improve the quality of life of Indian women and  
16 families.

17 (2) Recommend a permanent policy mechanism  
18 to be established in the Bureau of Indian Affairs for  
19 the continuous monitoring and refinement of policy  
20 and programs designed to improve the quality of life  
21 of Indian women and families.

22 (3) Recommend a permanent policy mechanism  
23 to be established in the Bureau of Indian Affairs for  
24 the purpose of collecting and disseminating to Con-  
25 gress and the public information and other data rel-



1       evant to the progress of the policy and programs de-  
2       signed to improve the quality of life of Indian  
3       women and families.

4       (d) TERMINATION.—The task force shall terminate  
5       upon the expiration of 14 months following the date of  
6       the enactment of this Act.

7       **SEC. 8. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.**

8       The Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs shall:

9               (1) Ensure that the Office receives adequate re-  
10       sources to carry out the purposes of this Act.

11              (2) Ensure that senior-level staff members and  
12       other employees of the Bureau of Indian Affairs are  
13       participants in and responsible for assisting in carry-  
14       ing out the purposes of this Act relating to the im-  
15       provement of policies and programs of the Bureau of  
16       Indian Affairs.

17       **SEC. 9. REPORTING.**

18       The Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bu-  
19       reau of Indian Affairs, shall, on or before March 15 of  
20       each of the 2 calendar years next following the calendar  
21       year in which this Act is enacted, and biennially there-  
22       after, report to Congress on the progress of achieving the  
23       purposes of this Act. Such report shall include, but not  
24       be limited to, information relative to the current status  
25       of progress of the Bureau of Indian Affairs' policy on In-

1 dian women and Indian families in fulfilling its objectives,  
2 programs and projects, including how well the Bureau of  
3 Indian Affairs has operationally integrated the issue of In-  
4 dian women and families into its overall policies, pro-  
5 grams, projects and activities. Such report shall include  
6 a review of data gathered to assess and improve the qual-  
7 ity of life of Indian women and families, including specific  
8 recommendations to improve the education, health, em-  
9 ployment, economic, housing, social, and other services  
10 within the Bureau of Indian Affairs relating to Indian  
11 women and families.

12 **SEC. 10. AUTHORIZATIONS.**

13 Commencing with fiscal year 1994, and each fiscal  
14 year thereafter, there are authorized to be appropriated  
15 for carrying out the provisions of this Act, \$2,000,000.

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